

1678. 2. 29 4
THE
MAD PRANKS
OF
TOM TRAM,

Son-in-Law to Mother WINTER,

To which is added,
His Merry JESTS, odd CONCEITS, and
pleasant TALES, very delightful to
Read.

THE FIRST PART.



Printed and Sold in Aldermary Church-
Yard, Bow Lane, London.

The First Part of

TOM TRAM.



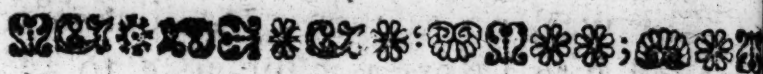
CHAP. I.

Tom's Pedigree, and the Cause of his
 • whipping the Pots to Death.

THERE was an old woman, named Mother Winter, who had a son-in-law, whose name was Thomas, who though he was at man's estate, yet would do nothing but what he pleased, which grieved his mother to the heart. One day being at market she heard a proclamation that those who would not work should be whipped, On this she ran home and told Tom of the proclamation that was issued out; replied Tom, I will not break the decree. Upon which the old woman left her son, and went to market.

She

She was no sooner gone, but Tom looked into a stone pot she used to keep her small beer in, and seeing the beer did not work, he with his cart-whip lays on the pot as hard as he could. The people seeing him, told his mother, who said, The knave will be hanged, and in that note went home.—Tom seeing her coming, laid on as hard as he could drive, and broke the pots, which made the old woman say, O what hast thou done, thou villain? O dear mother, said he, you told me it was proclaimed, that those who did not work must be whipped; and I have so often our pots works so hard that they foamed at the mouth: but these two lazy knaves will never-work. So I have whipped them to-death to shew their fellows to work, or never to look me in the face again.



C H A P. II.

Of Tom's displeasing the Mayor, though
he did what he bid him.



UPon a time Mother Winter sent her son Tom into the market to buy her a pennyworth of soap, and bid him be sure to bring her change safe back. Tom told her he would; and to this end he goes and buys a pennyworth of soap and hired two men with a hand-barrow to carry the same, and four men with brown bells to guard it along, giving 'em the eleven pence that remained, for their pains; which puts his mother in a passion insomuch that she caused him to be

sent to prison.—Now the window joined to the Mayor of the town's parlor window. Tom, and some others of his fellow-prisoners having a cup of good liquor in their beads, began to roar, sing, and domineer.—The Mayor hearing them in the night, charged them all to leave off drinking and singing of psalms. Tom told him he would mend his life, if he would pardon his fault.—The Mayor said, For that night he should be in prison for his misdemeanors, and upon amendment he would release him in the morning. He thanked the Mayor, and prevailed on him to lend him three shillings, which he spent upon those confined with him, which made them all be ruled by him. So when the Mayor was got to bed they began to sing psalms so loud that the Mayor could not rest, so ordered one of his servants to bid them leave off singing. Tom said, It was the Mayor's good council that they should sing, and sing they would, as long as they continued in that place. Which made the Mayor bid the gaoler turn them out without paying any fees.



C H A P. III.

Shewing, How Tom served his Hostess
and a Tobacco-feller.



IT happened that Tom was sent of an errand forty miles from home ; and at the inn he put up at, he chanced to lie in a room opening to the yard, wherein his hostess kept turkies, and Tom seeing them, thrust pins into two of their heads, and in the night they died. The woman in the morning wondering how these turkies died. Tom perswades her there was a vast sickness amongst them, and so she threw them away, Tom watching an opportunity, when she was busy, took the turkies away under his coat unseen.

but he finding them heavy, and seeing a man at the top of the hill who used to sell tobacco, leading his horse down the hill, Tom fell down, crying as if he had broke a leg, and made great lamentation of his being five or six miles from any town and was likely to perish. The man asked where he lived? Tom replied, With such'a Knight. He knowing the gentlema



set him on his horse Tom then bid him give him his master's turkies, and then galloped away as fast as he could, crying out I shall be killed, I shall be killed.— The man seeing he was gone without the turkies, knew not what to do, for he thought if he left the turkies behind, the Knight might take it amiss. So carrying them on foot, lugging, fretting, and sweat-

ing to the next town, where he hired a horse to overtake Tom, but could not till he arrived at the Knight's house, where Tom stood ready, calling to him, Oh! now I see thou art an honest fellow; I had thought you had set me on a headstrong horse on purpose to deceive me of my two turkies. But he replied, Pox on your turkies and you too: I hope you you will pay for the horse I got.—Yes hat I will indeed, said Tom.



C H A P. IV.

Shewing, How he paid the Man for his
Horse-hire.

TOM asked the man which road he intended to travel? Nay, said the other, I must go back with the horse I hired, Quoth Tom, what did you give for the hire of him? Five Shillings said the man. Well, said Tom, I will bring you so far in the way back, and save the five shillings. The place appointed being two miles off, he sent for some of his companions to meet him. Tom being come to the inn, called the hostler to take his horse, and give him some oats, and ordered a turkey to be roasted with all speed. Tom's companions heing come, he desired them to ply the person with drink, while he in the mean time went to the host and told him they came there to be merry, and money being but short with him, desired he would lend him ten shillings upon his horse. The host readily lent it him, as knowing the money would be spent in his

House. So Tom went and gave the man five shillings for his horse hire, and spent the other freely. After supper Tom and his companions took their leaves, and the man rose betimes. but could not have his horse unless he paid ten shillings; so seeing he was thus cozened again, paid him the money and wished the devil might take all cheating Knaves. And away he rode, fretting to see himself thus abused.



C H A P. V.

How Tom served some Gentlemen.

ONCE it happened that a company of gentlemen being disposed to be merry, rode some miles, and he would needs have Tom wait on them; and he was as willing as the gentlemen. But as they were coming home, one of them cut the reins of Tom's bridle; so that when he mounted the reins broke, and his horse ran away with him into the middle of a vast heath, where stood the gallows, against which the horse stopt and rubbed himself. The gentleman cried out Tom, farewell. But Tom alighted from his horse, and made fast his reins, and with a sword cut three or four chips from off the gallows, and at the next tavern overtook them, and they jeered him; but to be even with them in the morning Tom called the hostler, and sent him for some spices, which he grated and mixed with the chips of the gallows, all but a trifle he reserved for himself. Then with a full gallon of ale he entered the room, saying,

Gentlemen, if you will tieze me no more I will treat you with a gallon of ale and spice ; so here's to you. As he was drinking the hostler called him ; and while he was gone the gentlemen drank up all the ale ; upon his return, he said Gentlemen, do you know the reason my horse ran away with me to the gallows ? No said one to them. Why then said Tom it was to fetch you some spice to your ale ; and as you are in want I have more for you. And then produced more chips. Afterwards, he left the Gentlemen to laugh at their own folly.



C H A P. VI.]

Tom rides a Gossipping.



TOM heard of a company of old women, who met at a house-warming. These women having formerly abused Tom, he now thought to be even with 'em. he goes therefore to an apothecary's shop, and buys a pound of purging cemsis, and baked them in a cake and dressed himself in women's apparel, and gets a horse and pannel, and goes to the house, and asks the maid if any women was there a house warming; None as yet, said the wench. Then take this cake said he, and if I come not let them make merry with it. Then

away he went. Some supposed it was a midwife. They staid a long time, until finding that Tom the supposed old woman did not return, they sat down to their meat. At last they eat their cake, which was not long in their bellies before it began to work, one went to stool, another to voimiting, all were sick. In the mean time Tom shifts in man's apparel, and went where those gossips were, and asked what was the matter? They said, they were all poisoned. Marry, said Tom, God forbid, if you'll please to let me have a horse, I will fetch a medicine to expel the poison. Take a horse, said they. So into the stable he goes, takes three horses, and immediately rides to the doctor, and tells him, That such a people of such a house, had eaten something that they could not go to stool, and desired him to send them some glysters directly; and that they had sent a horse for himself and another for his man. The doctor, greedy of money, hasted thither with all his glyster-pipes, as fast as his horse could gallop. But the doctor no sooner entered into the house, but he smelt there was no need of glysters. In the mean time Tom

told all he met, of what had happened to the gossips F and they also told their husbands. This made such a noise as to draw many to see them, which made them both sick and ashamed, as every body that saw them adjudged him to be drunk, and instead of comforting reviled them. At length they fell to scolding, and had certainly fought if their husbands had not fetched them home.



C H A P

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C H A P. VII.

Tom's Trick on some Gypsies.



IT happened one evening there came a number of Gypsies to town, whom Tom meeting, asked what they did there? they said, To tell people their fortunes, that they might avoid approaching danger. Where do you lie to-night, said Tom? We cannot tell, said they. If you can be content to lie in the straw, says Tom, I will shew you where you may lie dry and warm. They thanked him, and said they would tell him his fortune for nothing. He thanked them, and conveyed them to a little thatched house filled with straw, and which had a ditch round it,

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close to the wall of the house, and there left them to take their rest, drawing up the bridge after him. In the dead of the night he got a long pole with a large whisp of straw, and set the house on fire. One of the Gypsies seeing the house in flames, calling to the rest, and thinking to cross the bridge, fell into the ditch, crying out for help; while by Tom's means great part of the town stood to see the Jest. As the Gypsies came out of the ditch, the people let them go to the fire to warm themselves; where Tom told them, That seeing they could not foretel their own fortunes he would, which was on the morrow morning they should be whipt for cheats, and in the afternoon changed for setting the house on fire.

The Gypsies hearing this, made haste to dry themselves, got out of the town before day-break, and never came there afterwards.

C H A P.

C H A P. VII.

Of Tom selling his Mother's Trivet,
and cheating an old Man,

ONE winter's dark night Tom coming home late, felt with his arms before him, but at last run his nose against a post, and then dropped into a well crying out, Help, help. The neighbours drew him out, and put him to bed, but having a looseness he defiled the bed, which he said was the mud of the well. Just as he had said so, in came an old hot water-man, whom Tom asked for a drop; then framing a fit, he rose up and went away with the man's bottle, and sold his mother's trivet for a pole and a falconer's bag, which being tyed to his side, he came yelling home with an owl on his fist, saying, It was gentleman like to be 'twixt an owl and a buzzard. Afterwards he told the hot waterman he had sent his bottle to be filled.

C H A P, IX.

The Usage of Tom to a singing Man
in the West.

ONCE there was a singing man, who much offended Tom by his making a Jest on him. Whereupon he put on his back an ox's hide, with the horns on his head, and lay in a place where he knew he must pass. At last he came. Up starts Tom and follows him. The man seeing him, cries out, The devil, the devil. No, no, quoth Tom, I am good-man Johnson's ghost, whom you owe five pounds to for good ale; therefore, appoint some day to pay me, or I will haunt you as long as I live. The man appointed that day week and paid him. Tom bought fine cloaths, and sweethearts came about him like bees, but Tom kept a rope in his pocket, and being asked if he would marry, he shewed them a rope, saying, I will hang myself sooner than commit Matrimony with any of you.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

Of Tom's Courtship and Marriage with
Cicely Summers the neat Maid of the
West.

Cicely Summers, whose nose was thin and fair, and shon like to bacon rhine, was beloved by Tom Tram, who pined away for the love of her. Yet he durst not speak bbt whistled. At last, when Cicely took no notice of him, he burst out thus: O Cicely Summers, if old Mother Winter's son and you were joined together, people would say, There goes Summer and Winter; and if thou dost scold Winter will cool thy heart.— At length they were married; but she scolded both summer and Winter. Yet Tom lived by good ale, and his wife by eating oatmeal. And when Tom went to get drunk in the morning, she put mustard in his ale instead of eggs; which bit Tom most grievously by the nose; yet he would be very drunk the next day.

C H A P

SEVERAL
MERRY TALES.

A Tale of a Scholar and a Tapster, by
the Fire-side.

THE Tapster said to the Scholar, Sir will you go to bed? No, quoth he, for there are thieves abroad, and I would not be took napping. So the tapster went away. Soon after a ghost appeared to the scholar, with his head under his arm; so he cried out, Help, help, thieves; and said the devil had been with him with his head under his arm; but if he came again he would send him to the drawer to take him away. Now it being a cold night, he said, I will warm my toes by the fire, and then I will go to bed, and so he did.—The next morning the great reckoning put the scholar out of his jest, which made him say, He was too much in earnest to pay such a reckoning, he being but a poor Oxford Scholar.

A



Of a Country Fellow's being tricked out
of his Money by a Company of Strol-
ing Gypsies.

ONE day a company of Gypsies come
to a country fellow upon the road,
and told him his fortune.—Among other
things, they told him his worst losses was
past, and he would not be troubled with
so many crosses as he had been. Having
sold a cow, he looked in his purse for
the money, but found never a cross. He
remembered the Gypsies words, that he
should not be troubled with crosses, for
they had picked his pocket, and left him
never a cross. Whereupon his wife be-
gan to cudgel him, which made him re-
flect, that a man who has a crusty wife,
should never be without a cross. Now
it being winter he sat a while by the fire-
side warming himself, and went to bed,
supperless and pennyless.

Of



Of a Farmer's Wife, her three Pigs, and
her Cock.

A Farmer's wife had three pigs, which she loved very well, and fed them so bravely, that they befouled the rooms. Whereupon she resolved to sell them, because they was all better fed than taught, but afterwards they were stolen away. So she imagined they were driven to London to learn matters. Her cock having a piece of red cloth sewed about him, was also stolen from his perch. Hereupon, she said, Her cock was turned scholar, and wore a red gown; and went to a Conjuror to find her pigs and cock. The scholar smiled and told her. The three pige were flown home, and her cock was made a Batchelor of Arts in a college. — I guessed so, said the woman, for all Batchelors of Arts are Coxcombs.

Of

Of a Man's being told how he might escape Punishment for buying a stolen Cloak.

ONE in the country having bought a cloak of one that stole it, and being threatened to be prosecuted for the same asked of an acquaintance how he might come off? His friend replied he would tell him for a quart of sack. So away they went to a tavern, and having drank the sack, desired to know how he should proceed to get off such a troublesome affair. His acquaintance replied, That he would not tell them till they got into the street. So going out of the tavern Didst thou see, quoth he, yonder rope-maker's shop? do but buy a rope and hang thyself with it, and I will warrant thee thou shalt come off, and never be troubled about the matter.

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